PEW RAT TALES. Exciting Huns to the Sewers of New York.

t long ago the writer attended a York, at the invitation of Capt. Webb, who had been superintendent of the awarage system of the metropolis for over thirty years. During his term he had pairolled these underground tunwhich now aggregate nearly five red miles, during the past thirty

er party consisted of nine men and tre thoroughbred rat dogs of superi-terit. Preparations had been made ttacks host of rats at every possible ge enough to drive a coach and four sungh. Sewer men had been sent in advance to fix strong wire netten to close the mouths of cross sewer at will, and barrels of garbage had an placed where they would attract hungry rolents. These wire screens are arranged to be dropped, so as to be trailly cut off the escape of the sat the necessarians.



been suspended for the day. The e was that of a huge tunnel, the ag old brick walls being coated with grim yellow and gray slime, va-ded at different points here and there; at some glistening with almost reflect-be power, and at others a fuzzy or dull dect. The atmosphere was very eavy and oppressive, but not at all anseous (according to the popular con-eption.) At times there was a sour or stale odor, but upon the whole the air of the poor tenement houses in the

Over the bottom of the sewer there red a volume of water less than two bet in depth. Under the rays of the stern, gleaming over its surface, it

Being past the midnight hour, when Il busidess had ceased, and the city at argo was asleep, very little of the

n ever, and the current went slug-hly along, suggestive of the classic he death song refrain of some aborige chieftain, or the far-off wail of exdring unfortonates.

se ruminations were broken when Capt. Webb, who had heretofore kept sient, ordered a halt. We stood still. lis workmen had hung up lanterns on er driven into the walls of the tunel, and thus there was enough light throwa forward from the arch above to mable us to see, in the shadows beed, what seemed to us thousands of lastric sparks. Soon, however, one's through which we peered and could limby perceive the forms of thousands of phorescent light, gleaming, glaring and sahing toward us. As we gazed upon



them they glared upon us. They memed to realize their peril and approdate their desperate condition.

The string of dogs, which up to this time had been kept in the background and were controlled with so little diffi-quity, were let loose and dashed impetmensly forward toward the hosts of

Instantaneously there was a transfer eation scene. The whole atmosphere semed full of dogs and rate. The marks and howls of the canizes mincling with the screams and squeals of or redents was a pandemonium of the most appailing character. In the twinkling of an eye there was a kaleid-ascopic spectacle of indescribable con-fusion, in which the leaping, rushing to and fro, snapping of teeth, snaring, yelping, barking and struggling of the dogs, together with the splashing in the water and the screams, hisses and cals of the rats, made a chorus of with these hideous sounds as the struggle continued, and at times it was almost impossible to distinguish dogs hom rate as they sprang, leaped, ofinched, enapped and tumbled over

The most that we could see was rim, weird sort of merry-go-round of heads, talk, legs, paws, teeth, claws and for of rate and dogs.

Meanwhile a wild man of the redenta aght desperate escape by frantically hing for the only outlet, galloping of scrambling in their effects to pass there we stood, leaping, turability and or all around to with services, es and heurse coughs, in horrid dio. we whacked at them with heavy the in merelless rigor and also aped them under our heavy boots. at the stragged was brief and decisive. be well-trained thoroughbred dogs in carnival of description made short complete work with their natural prey; and besides what we falled to destroy with our bludgeons very few escaped slaughter. We could not count the number of the slain, but Capt. Webb calculated the death roll to be more

although by their nature always aby, they can be made familiar with those who are constantly near them. Claus came so familiar with the rate there about as to not only make them friend-ly and docile, but to a certain extent gave them a rudimentary education. The writer was with him one night, re-The writer was with him one night, re-cently, when the place and surround-ings were silent and deserted, and wit-nessed some strange "doings." We en-tered one of the huge warehouses and seated ourselves on empty boxes. Gloom and silence prevailed everywhere. The watehman set his bull's-eye lantern on the floor so that its rays went attwart the main passage and illuminated the front of an immense grain box. Then he began to tap lightly on the floor with his club. After continuing this for a few minutes we could see just beyond the scope of the lantern's rays the figure of a rat of unusual size, almost as large as an ordinary cat. It approached ure of a rat of unusual size, almost as large as an ordinary cat. It approached alowly and cautiously toward us, and soon we could discover its color and size. Its fur was yellow and drab, with a white breast and belly, long stiff bristles and a sharp-pointed nose. Eyes that glittered like electric sparks were fixed upon us, and as its mouth opened, now and then, gleaming, long, sharp-pointed teeth were disclosed. There was a great deal of deliberation in the movements of his approach. His eyes was a great deal of deliberation in the movements of his approach. His eyes snapped and flashed as he hopped and half ran in circles toward us, but never for an instant was his gase directed from us. His eyes spoke volumes.

He surveyed the situation with an intelligence worthy of a military hero. He

telligence worthy of a military hero. He knew the watchman well, but he was evidently suspicious of my appearance. He sat on his haunches, about twenty feet away from us, and stared and glared curiously. Far away in his rear, in the shadowy background, could be dimly seen the forms of others of his tribe, who, with the exception of inad-vertent squeals, seemed to be awaiting

The watchman took from his pocket an ordinary comb, which he wrapped an ordinary comb, which he wrapped with thin paper, and, placing it next to his teeth, began vibratory sounds, with rising and falling inflections. Instant-ly the old rat pricked up his ears as though listening, and then slowly but steadily advanced until he entered the circle of light. Therenpon and immediately out of the distant gleom, came shapes, colors and conditions. The first large old rat was evidently the king of all, for all the others surrounded him at a respectful distance, and seemed to await his orders. There were thousands of them, young and old. Most of them remained quiet, but others, presumably ver Styx, imaginations of goblins, far away in the background' aps and spirits hovering here and on his hind legs and whirled his maller crossing sawers. Bitterly cold head to and fro like a marshal reviewdraughts of air, as though forced ing his forces, and thereupon for a motherough a frosted sponge, swept past ment all the others remained motions with a sound, now and then, like less and quiet. Suddenly the watchman gave a quick, sharp, loud blast on the comb, whereat the king rodent ut-tered a shrill, piercing scream, which was taken up and reiterated from the throats of his thousands of subjects. The din that followed was indescribably horrid-like a chorus of walls from the bottomless pit-or, in other words, like "hell let loose." It was a babel of shrill, ear-splitting squeaks and screams
—enough to drive one mad. Even the
old watchman clapped his hands to his
ears. Then he stamped his foot upon
the floor, whereupon the noise ceased

almost as suddenly as it began. After a short pause he commenced whistling a soft low minor key tune. To my immense amazement some of the "varmints" joined with modulated squeaks and moans, as if in mimicry.

Then he began to tap the floor with his club, at which signal the throng of rodents commenced to encircle the old king rat in a processional dance and

She-What sort of a flower is this? Man (who stutters)-It is a chris-an an chrisan chris She At that rate the flower will fade fore you say what it is -Texas Sift-

Chris Was Up to the Times Teacher—Now, what were Columbus first words when he discovered America? Johnny Politicus—Where am I at?

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